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Final Project

Report – Election Prediction

The objective of this assignment is to make a program that will predict the 2012 presidential election by analyzing the poll and election data. Covering the topics of solving complex problems using lists, sets, and dictionaries.

Major functions and variables used in the assignment would be the election poll data along with the functions that read the files of the poll and imports.

Functions - main, read\_csv, row\_to\_edge, state\_edges, earlier\_date, most\_recent\_poll\_row, unique\_column\_values, pollster\_predictions, average\_error, predict\_state\_edges, electoral\_college\_outcome

read\_csv - reads the CSV file at a path, and returns a list of rows from the file.

row\_to\_edge – giving election data or poll data to return the democratic edge from a state.

state\_edges – giving a list of election data to return the state edges.

earlier\_date – giving two dates as a string which then returns a true statement if the first date is before the second date.

most\_recent\_poll\_row – giving a list of poll data it will return the most recent row with the specified pollster and state, but if it doesn’t exist then it will return nothing.

unique\_column\_values – giving a list of rows and the name of a string which then returns a set containing all values in that column.

pollster\_predictions – giving a list of poll data and returns the prediction of the pollster.

average\_error – giving a predicted state edge and actual state edge which then returns the average error of the prediction.

predict\_state\_edges – given a pollster prediction from a current election and pollster from a past election which returns a predicted stage edge of the current election.

electoral\_college\_outcome – given an Electoral College rows and state edges it will return the outcome of the election.

How the program works is, it starts off reading the CSV file from the path and returns a list of rows from the file; return a list of dictionaries where it sorts through the election data and the poll data in rows. Going through all the functions that would read state edges, pollster predictions, computing pollster errors, and then predict the outcome of the 2012 state edges and the 2012 electoral outcome.

I wasn’t so sure on whether the functions would work or if we had to completely modify the functions from the test python file for the entire program to work. I tried testing the functions of the test file and it kept coming back the same result even with some modifications to the functions. Making it so there was a recursion to the point where it got limited. There were many problems with the program and that I could not get it to work.